



Alligator Lake Chain HomeOwners Association
Alligator, Brick, Center, Coon, Lizzie, Trout
a non-profit corporation
P.O. Box 701953
St. Cloud, Florida 34770-1953

May 27, 1999

Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Ms. Christine Bauer
PO Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Bauer:

I am a member of the Alligator Home Lake Chain Homeowner's Association (ALCHA) and I write in support of the Alligator Chain and Lake Gentry Extreme Drawdown and Habitat Enhancement Project/Osceola County, Florida.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (March 1999) has been reviewed by ALCHA leadership and we are in agreement that the project should proceed as soon as possible.

Very Sincerely,

Bruce K. Fitzpatrick

6845 Bass Hwy
St. Cloud, FL 34770
407 892 4580

ALCHA MEMBER(S)



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Very Sincerely,

James S. Rasmussen
Gay J. Padabaugh

ALCHA MEMBER(S)

Alligator Lake Chain Homeowners Association, Inc. (ALCHA)

May 28, 1999

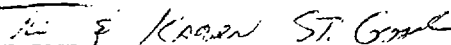
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Ms. Christine Bauer
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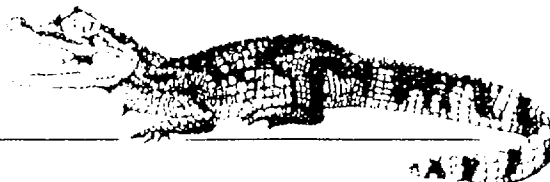
Very Sincerely,



ALCHA MEMBER(S)

* 108 ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES WERE ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER

Alligator, Brick, Center, Coon, Lizzie, Trout
a non-profit corporation
P. O. Box 701953
St. Cloud, Florida 34770-1953



Sam Dower • 917 Illinois Ave • St Cloud, FL 34769
407-957-1153

5/30/99

to: Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville
attn: Christine Bauer

re: Alligator Chain Drawdown

This is to recommend that the Alligator Chain Drawdown be commenced and implemented according to the findings of the March, 1999, Environmental Impact Statement. Despite the unfortunate connotation of 'Extreme', the proposed depth and duration of the low water is little different from events that have occurred in the recent past. There has been such an extraordinary amount of scientific and pseudo-scientific research until it seems that all problematic conditions of water tables and frost occurrence have been adequately addressed.

The finite life of a Florida lake is, at best, comparatively short, given normal conditions of warm water and a year-long growing season. During the years 1980-1997, I owned property along Lake Lizzie, and observed the muck build-ups, accelerated to a small extent by population growth, and to a very large extent, by the Water Management Schedule, promulgated by COE and administered by SFWMD.

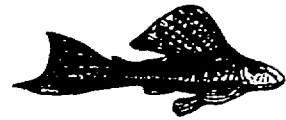
Pending a better means of removing this noxious material, regularly scheduled Drawdowns, in conjunction with shoreline cleanup, are the only viable method of arresting runaway growth in the littoral zones. I was active in ALCHA when homeowners co-operated with, and participated in three, separate enhancement projects sponsored by FGFWFC and assisted by SFWMD. These involved mechanical harvesters working at high pool stage to clean the outer reaches of the littoral zone. *No project money* was spent cleaning in front of residential areas, so a large number of ALCHA members paid to have this same work done in front of their properties. Later, to satisfy unmet demand, ALCHA sponsored *its own program*, using two harvesters and involving *no public money!* These people are sincerely interested in the health of these lakes, not a government handout.

A highway re-building involves inconvenience for residents along the right-of-way, and major disruption for businesses, but public benefit is the deciding factor. If the Corps, along with GFC and SFWMD, does not vigorously defend its right to maintain lakes on this Chain, the other controlled lakes in the Upper Kissimmee Basin will also be in jeopardy. The right to maintain lakes and waterways must be established, protected, and exercised.


Sam Dower



CASTELLI FARMS



7580 E. IRLO BRONSON MEM. HWY. • ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA 34771

PHONE (407) 957-3203

THE HOME OF EXTRA NICE QUALITY "PLECOS"

FAX (407) 957-3434

June 7, 1999

Our Customers Never Run Out

Please Respond to:
David Castelli
Pg 1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District Corps of
Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019
and

Christine Bauer
CESAJ-DD-ES
US Army Corps of Engineers
400 West Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4412

Re: Comment on Draft EIS for Alligator Chain of
Lakes Project

To whom it may concern:

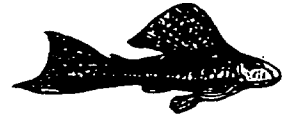
Pursuant to the direction of Hanley K. Smith,
please accept the submission of this comment
on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for the Alligator Lake Chain and Lake Gentry
Extreme Drawdown and Habitat Enhancement
Project.

1. Comments

It is unnecessary and unhealthy for
Alligator Lake to be drawn down past
61 feet.



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Pg 2

- 1.) As you know Mike Hulon Game and Fish Commission has been cleaning up the weeds and muck around the shore of Alligator Lake. He has been using a D45 Dozier, a very large Jap front end loader, two huge off the road dump trucks.

Most of the yards of fill that he has cleaned from the lake is composed of 80% white and dark sand with only 20% muck and vegetation.

The rest of the grass in the lake out past where he is able to reach now has very little if any muck at all. The ^{lake} bottom around the grass, 1 to 2 hundred yards offshore past where he has stopped is 99% white sand - no muck. in approximately 2 feet of water.

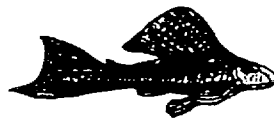
- 2.) GAME AND FISH COMMISSION HAS FAILED TO USE INFORMATION IT HAS ON THE HEALTH OF THE LAKE AND FISHERIES

1. The grass beds 100 yards to 300 yards by all present available data and studies show that the removal of this grass does serious harm to the Eco-System of the lakes and it's fisheries.

The grass beds are very important for the spawning for Bass, Shellerackers, Croppies etc.



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pg 3

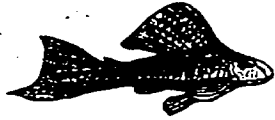
The grassbeds or line removes carbon-monoxide from the water and harmful nutrients. It is also necessary for the young fry for feeding and hiding from predators.

You will notice that 90% of all fishermen, whether tournament or hobby fishermen or commercial fish the grassbed or line as that is where the most food or oxygen is.

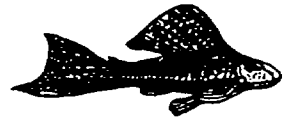
If you remove all of the grasslines there will be nowhere for the Croppie, Bass, shellcrackers etc. to spawn nor for the young to feed and hide nor the damage that will be done to the freshwater shrimp, one of the most important elements of the food chain.

3.) GAME AND FISH COMMISSION HAS FAILED TO USE AVAILABLE INFORMATION OR CONDUCTED ANY STUDIES ON THE IMPACT TO THE GRASS SHRIMP OR OTHER CRUSTACEANS DUE TO THE EXCESSIVE REMOVAL OF THE GRASS BEDS ON UPPER CHAIN OF LAKES

1) The removal of all of the grass beds or lines will have an instant adverse effect upon the amount of available grass shrimp in the Alligator Chain of Lakes. This is undisputable facts.



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Pg 4

and will take many years for the
Grasshrimp to recover- if ever.

Game and Fish Commission should be made
to ~~make~~ a study on the serious effects to the
Grasshrimp, crustations and ~~the~~ spawning
on upper chain of lakes.

To date there has been no-repeat- no
successful drawdowns on ^{upper} lakes. Prime
examples are Lake Apopka and Lake
Griffin

We donot need Alligator turned into another
Lake Apopka.

- Out of Mike Hulon- GFC- own mouth
Alligator Lake water quality and fisherie
is one of the Healthiest in the state- so
why are we messing with it?

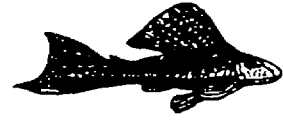
I will agree to an extent that cleaning
the shore line up to a depth of 61 ft.
may- and I repeat- May- have some
astetic value.

But as to its real value to the fisheries
it still leaves serious doubt.

But to go past 61 ft. without a lot more
serious studies done is either incompetance
on everyones part or pure insanity.



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Pg 5

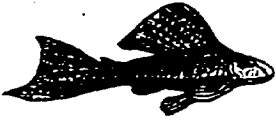
There have been no successful drawdowns of Upper Chain of Lakes. Period.

4.) IT IS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY TO LOWER THE LAKE PAST 61 FEET AS IT CAN BE DONE JUST AS EFFICIENTLY WITH A MECHANICAL HARVESTER TO REMOVE THE VEGETATION AND THE MUCK ~~PAST~~ 61 FEET. FROM

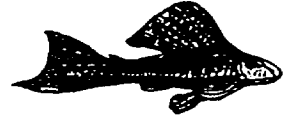
1. Mike Hulon and the Game and Fish Commission has already shown on the lakes how efficient mechanical harvesters can be to remove the vegetation and muck - especially in 2 feet of water or less.

2. Without lowering the water 1 (one) inch, the equipment Game and Fish has on Alligator Lake now is quite capable i.e. dump trucks, front end loader of driving out in 2 feet of water with little or no adverse effects on the Aquatic-Eco system as the bottom of the lake out there is hard sand bottom - REPEAT - Hard Sand Bottom.

I can drive my Pick-up out there with no adverse effects any more than a Bass Boat would have in the same depth of water.



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pg 6

I have films of Game and Fish cleaning the lake. They will follow this letter.

Also in the film you will see that around the Grassbeds or Line are mostly 99% white sand - which none of your Agencies of Government have bothered to find out.

I will make my Portoon available to take any ten experts you can gather up and myself and we will tour Alligator Lake Grassbeds or line and we will survey it while we are there. and their equipment can be brought as well.

We will see if we are really helping the lake or just cleaning the backyards of wealthy homes.

Film should arrive no later than Friday or Monday.

Yours in Fish,


David Castelli

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS FROM DAVID CASTELLI
7580 E. IRLO BRONSON MEM. HWY.
ST. CLOUD, FL 34771

Please refer to section 3.10 of the EIS which states: "The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (FWC) implemented extreme drawdowns of Lake East Tohopekaliga and Tohopekaliga (Toho) in 1990, Lake Toho in 1971, 1979 and 1987, and Lake Kissimmee in 1977 and 1996. These drawdowns were done to eliminate unwanted aquatic vegetation, facilitate muck removal and to improve overall aquatic habitat. The drawdowns had the desired effects: Bottom sediments did oxidize and consolidate, new vegetation communities were established, and fish food organisms significantly increased with a subsequent increase in sport fish populations (Holcomb and Wegener, 1971; Wegener and Willams, 1974; and Wegener, Willams, and McCall, 1974). According to Cooke and Kennedy (1989), "Water level drawdown is a multipurpose reservoir impoundment improvement technique. It is used to control some nuisance plants, provide access to dams, docks, and shorelines for repair and installation purposes, for fish management, for sediment consolidation and removal, and for installation of sediment covers".

Also please refer to section 4.02.1, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, which states "general aquatic habitat degradation has negatively affected the productivity and survivability of many of the above mentioned species. Restoring the littoral zones and water quality will reverse this trend. A general increase in the size and numbers of sport fish will also occur. This has been shown by the 1996 habitat enhancement project on Lake Kissimmee. During electrofishing surveys in 1995, numbers of young bass (< 12 inches) were down to 13 sampled per hour. Currently numbers of the same size fish are up to 86 sampled per hour.

Water quality will be improved due to a reduction of excess organic material, which will result in more stable and higher dissolved oxygen levels in the lakes. Water clarity will also improve, leading to increased light penetration. Phytoplankton productivity is expected to increase, with an accompanying increase in zooplankton and larger forage organisms.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR CHARLIE BRONSON
18th District

COMMITTEES:
Natural Resources,
Chairman
Health, Aging and Long-Term Care,
Vice Chairman
Budget - Subcommittee on Public Safety and Judiciary
Criminal Justice

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Everglades Oversight

June 8, 1999

Christine Bauer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4412

Dear Ms. Bauer:

It is my understanding that you are compiling comments for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alligator Chain and Lake Gentry Extreme Drawdown and Habitat Enhancement Project in Osceola County, Florida. I respectfully request that this be included in the final EIS.

Having grown up near the Alligator Chain, I remember being able to walk on the sandy shores of the lakes. I have seen firsthand how the quality of the lakes has degraded, in part due to the buildup of muck on the lake bottoms. Enhancing the quality of the lake chain is important to the survival of the lakes.

I ask that the Army Corps of Engineers address the reasonable and legitimate requests of all parties concerned in order to ensure that this project, if completed, is done quickly and with a minimum of inconvenience to all of the affected residents. I further urge the Corps to notify those concerned of any potential inconveniences that may arise during the project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie Bronson".

Charlie Bronson

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 1813 South Patrick Drive, Indian Harbour Beach, Florida 32937 (407) 726-2880
- ☐ 1322 10th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769 (407) 846-5275
- ☐ 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5056

TONI JENNINGS
President

WILLIAM G. "DOC" MYERS
President Pro Tempore



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Irlo "Bud" Bronson

District 79

Committees

Resource and Land Management Council
Agriculture, Vice-Chair
Rules
General Appropriations
Reapportionment
Judiciary

Reply to:

- ☐ 1415 West Vine Street
Post Office Drawer 422469
Kissimmee, Florida 34742-2469
(407) 933-2307 Fax (407) 933-2509
Suncom 352-7525 Toll-free (800) 962-4283
- ☐ 317 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 488-8992 Fax (850) 488-4347

June 10, 1999

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

To Whom It May Concern:

In order to be included during the period of comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Alligator Lake Chain and Lake Gentry Extreme Drawdown and Habitat Enhancement Project, I offer the following statement:

Having monitored the process as it has evolved, it seems that all parties have been willing to address problems which might arise as a result of the drawdown. I trust that data collected can be relied upon so that any necessary adjustments can be made to avoid any of the parties involved from being adversely affected.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irlo 'Bud' Bronson".

Rep. Irlo "Bud" Bronson
District 79

IB:jd

APPENDIX IV

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

D U P L I C A T E

Permittee: FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Permit No: 1997-03143 (IP-EB)

U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

Project Description: To remove approximately 700,000 cubic yards of organic muck from 530 acres of lake bottom in Lake Center, Trout Lake, Coon Lake, Lake Lizzie, Alligator Lake, and Lake Gentry. In the C-33 Canal which connects Lake Gentry and Alligator Lake, the permittee is authorized to temporarily place a sheet pile wall which will be removed once the project is complete. In the C-32C Canal which connects Trout Lake and Lake Joel, the permittee is authorized to temporarily construct a 1,000 cubic yard earthen plug and 72" culvert which will be removed once the project is complete. The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the 32 pages of drawings and one attachment affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

Project Location: The project is located in Lake Center, Trout Lake, Coon Lake, Lake Lizzie, Alligator Lake, and Lake Gentry, in St. Cloud, Osceola County, Florida.

Latitude & Longitude: Latitude.....28°12'30" North
Longitude.....81°12'30" West

Permit Conditions:

General Conditions:

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on JUL 15 2003. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a

time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.

2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and the mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.

5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of Department of Environmental Protection Permit Number 49-128995-001 which was issued on April 15, 1998, is attached if it contains such conditions.

6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

Special Conditions:

1. The permittee agrees that all muck spoils will be removed by bulldozer and loaded onto dump trucks. The muck spoil will be disposed of on 32 upland sites adjacent to the lakes and through the construction of 30 wildlife islands.

Permittee: FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Permit No: 1997-03143 (IP-EB)
Page 3

2. The permittee shall prior to the initiation of demucking activities, coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office to identify, mark, and protect historic resources identified on page 32 of the drawings.

Further Information:

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:

- (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
- (X) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- () Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413).

2. Limits of this authorization.

- a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.
- b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
- c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
- d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.

3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
- c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

- d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
 - e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
 - b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
 - c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Permittee: FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Permit No: 1997-03143 (IP-EB)
Page 5

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

One index page and two attachments, totaling 112 pages, are affixed behind this signature page.

Michelle W. Hulan
(PERMITTEE)

7/16/98
(DATE)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

Stephen Brooker
(DISTRICT ENGINEER)
Joe R. Miller
Colonel, U.S. Army

17 July 1998
(DATE)

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

(NAME-PRINTED)

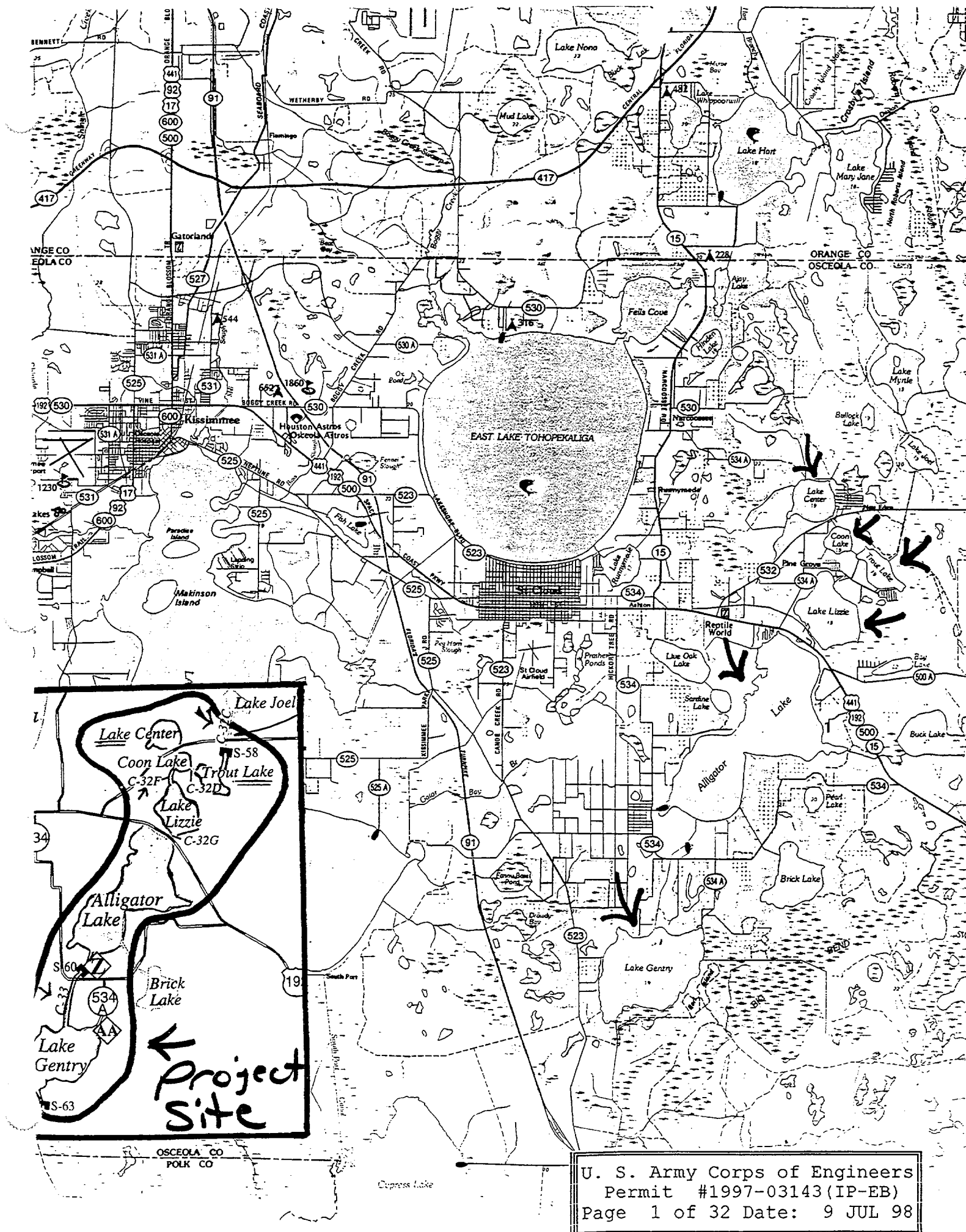
(ADDRESS)

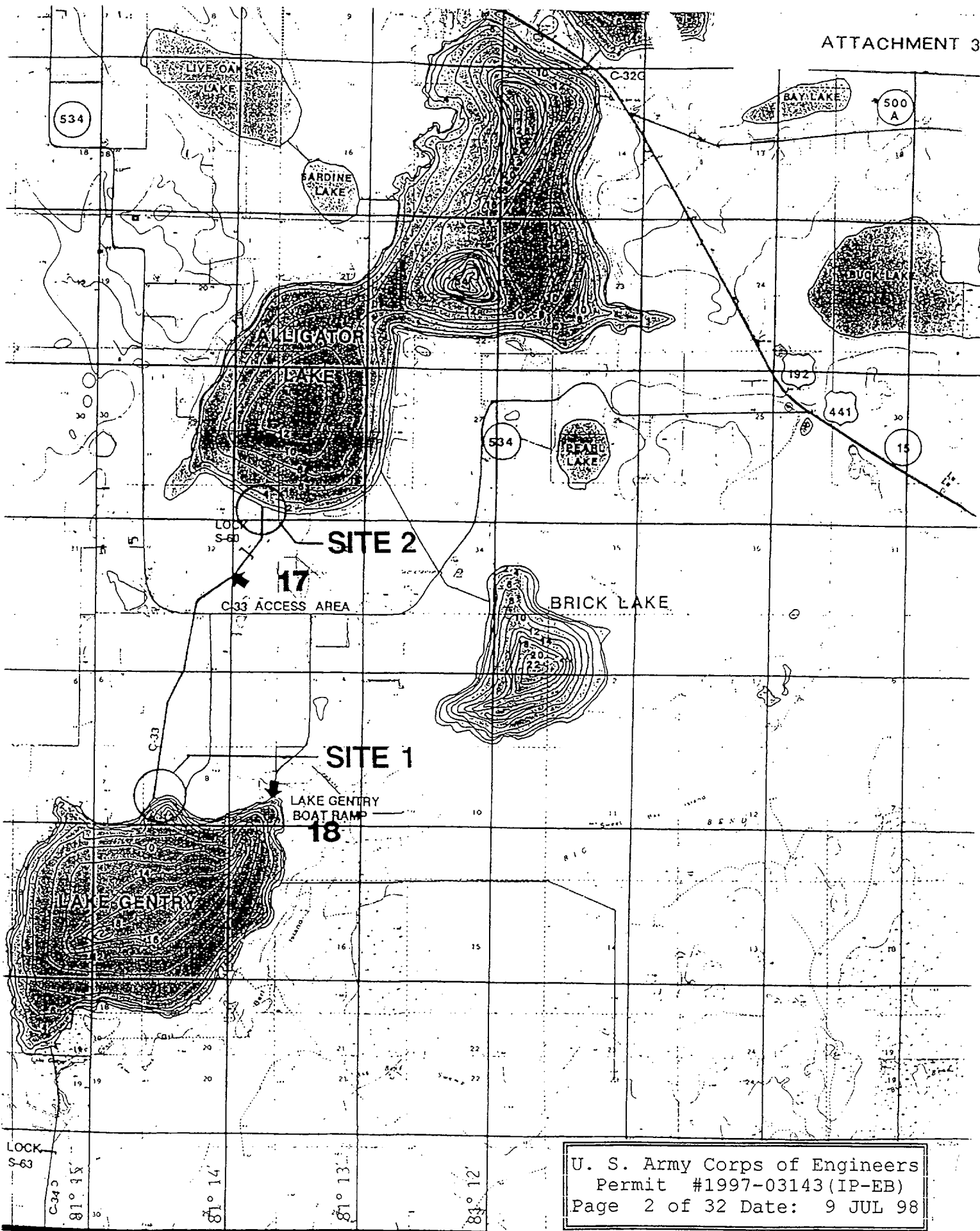
(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

Permittee: FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Permit No: 1997-03143 (IP-EB)
Page 6

*Attachments to Department of the Army
Permit Number 1997-03143(IP-EB)*

1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: Thirty-two (32) pages, dated 9 July 1998.
2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 2 of this DA permit. 80 pages.

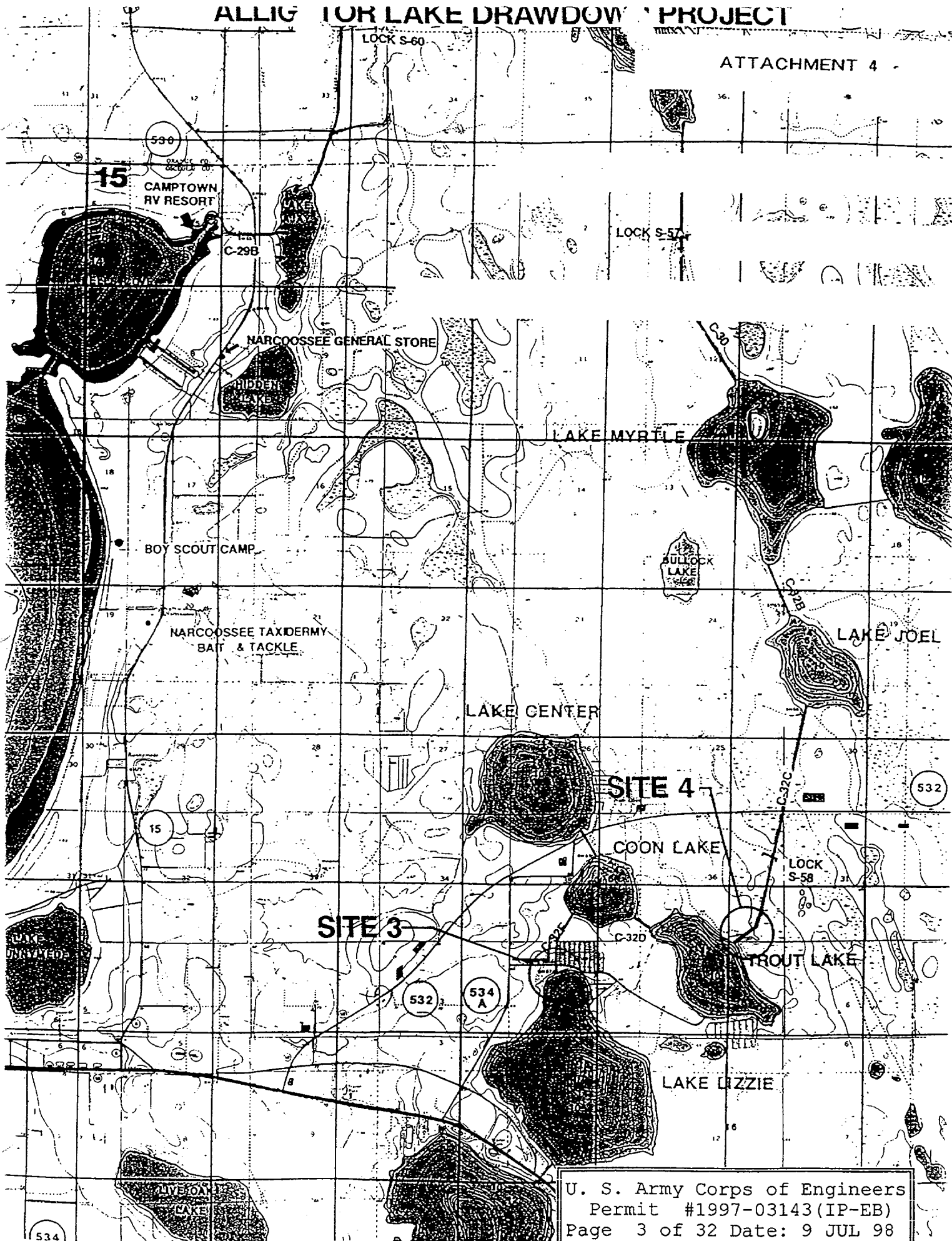




DETAILED LOCATION MAP

ALLIGATOR LAKE DRAWDOWN PROJECT


ATTACHMENT 4

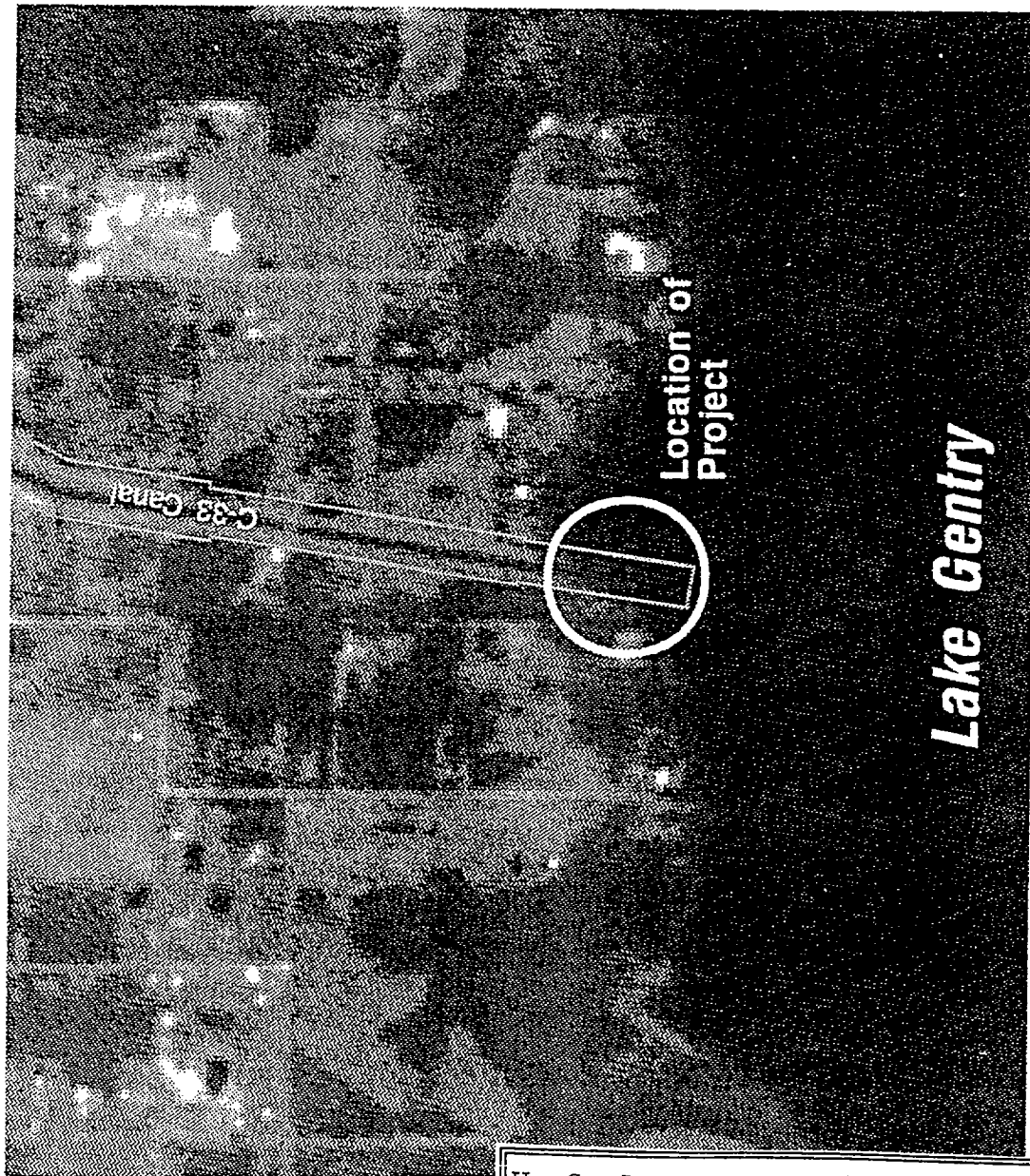
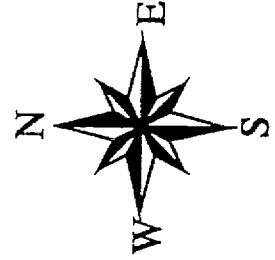


U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Permit #1997-03143(IP-EB)
 Page 3 of 32 Date: 9 JUL 98

DETAILED LOCATION MAP

North Shore of Lake Gentry at Canal C-33

 Canal Right of Way



SITE 1

0.54 0 0.54 1.08 Miles

NOTES:

1. HIGH WATER ELEV. = 61.5
LOW WATER ELEV. = 59.0
2. VOLUME OF DREDGE = 900 YDS
4.  AREA OF DREDGING

SEE TYP HYDRAULIC DREDGE
SPOIL CONTAINMENT

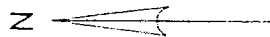
150' TRANSITION

END OF PROJECT

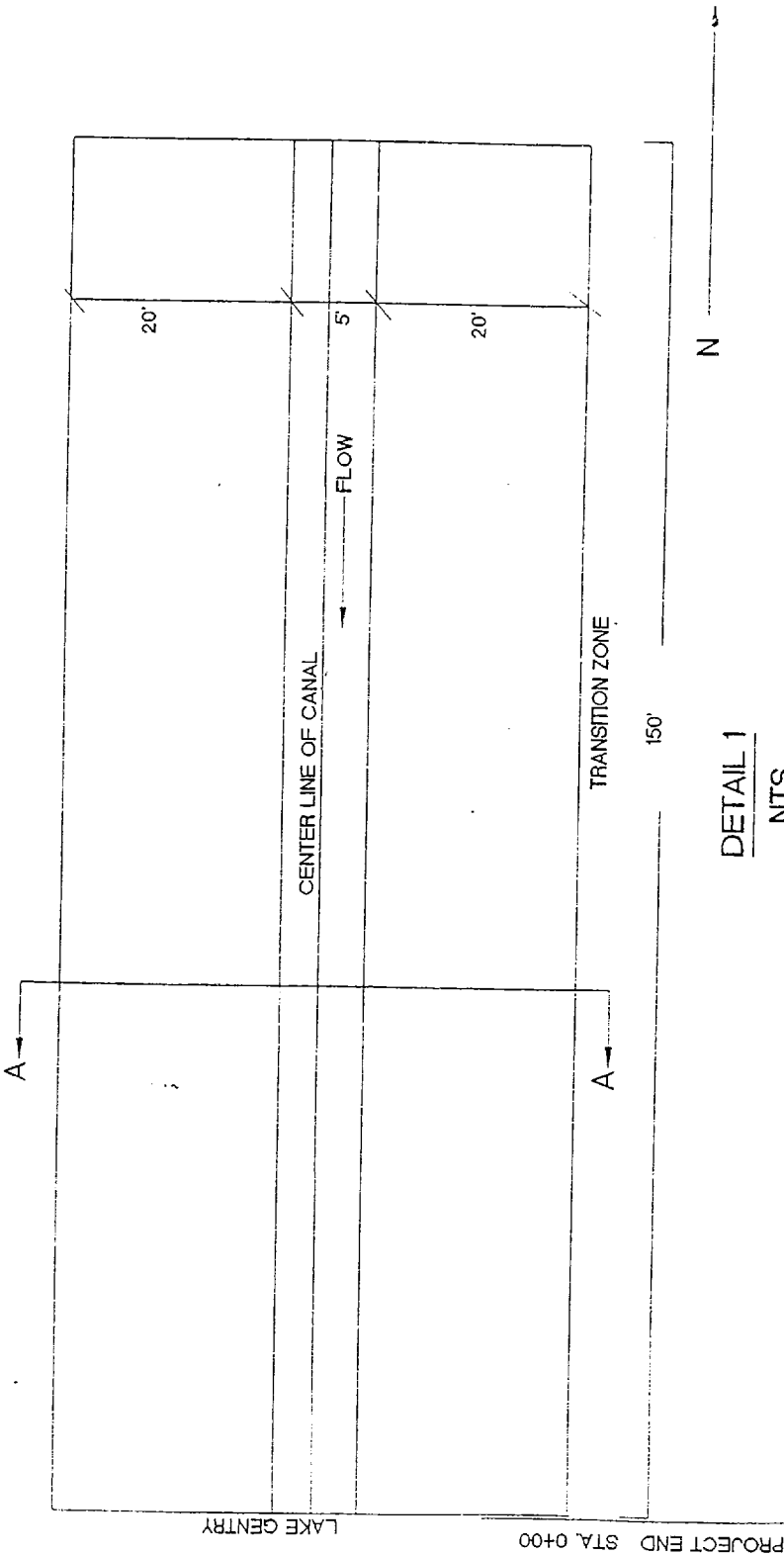
DETAIL 1

LAKE GENTRY
EDGE OF WATER

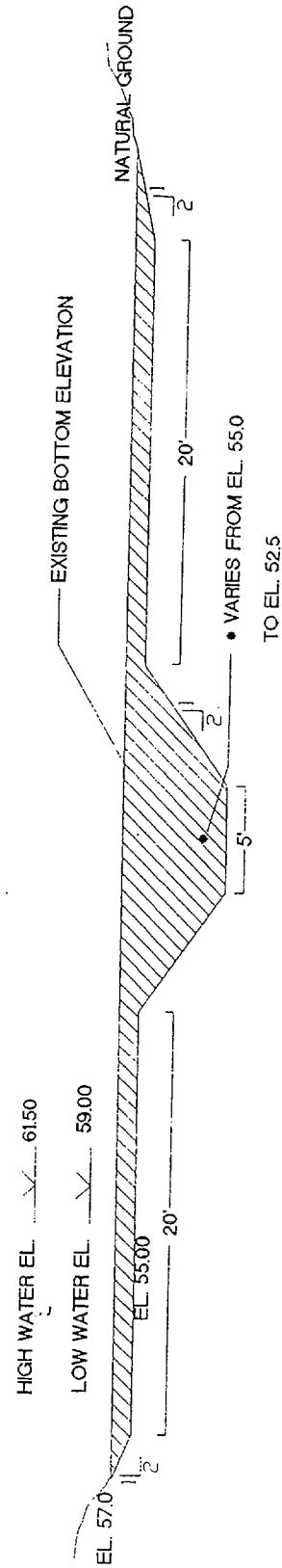
SITE PLAN
C-33 NTS



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DETAIL 1
NTS



- NOTES: 1) QUANTITY OF DREDGE MATL - 900 YDS (HYDRAULIC DREDGE)
2) SEE DETAIL 1 AND SITE PLAN FOR STAGING DETAIL AND LOCATION

SECTION A-A

NTS
C-33

PROJECT END

LAKE
GENTRY

150'

EXISTING

DREDGE

EL. 55

EL. - 57.0

EL. 52.5

BOTTOM OF CHANNEL
(DESIGN BOTTOM)

BY SEPERATE PERMIT

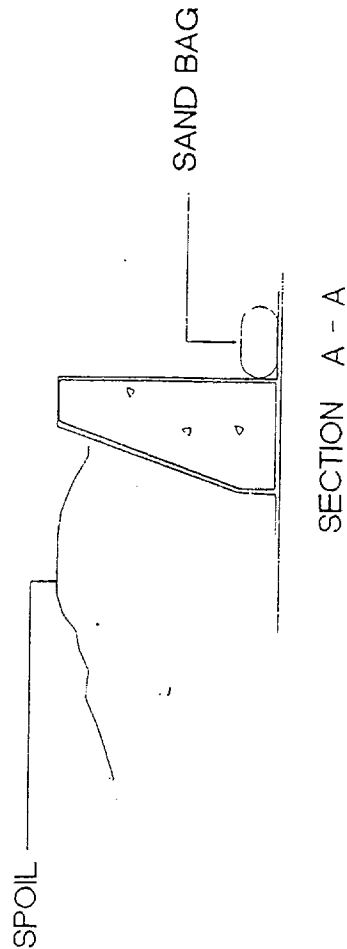
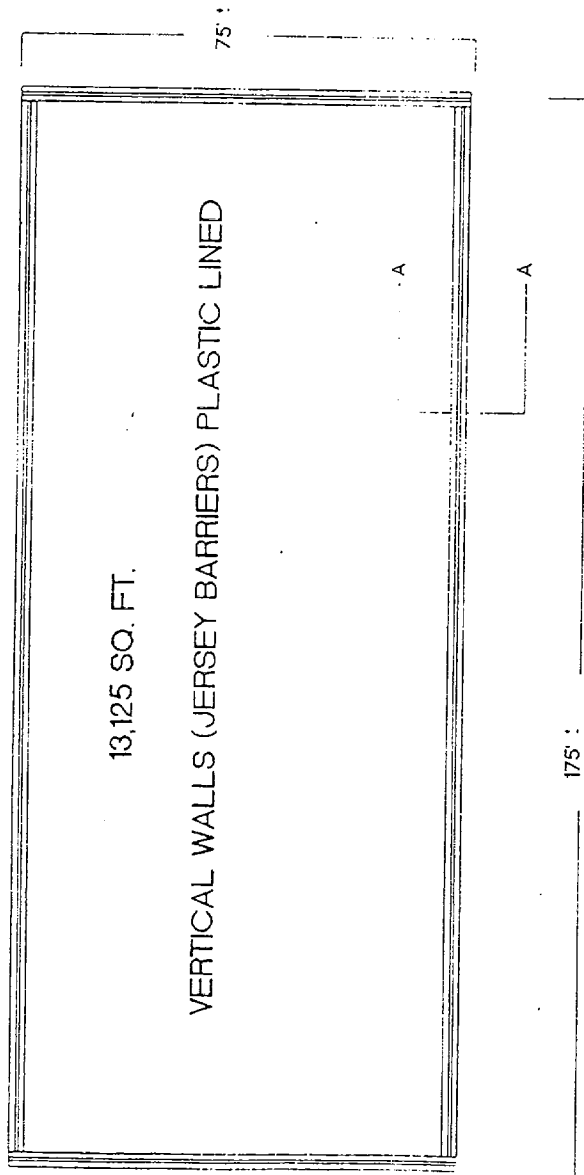
PROFILE CENTERLINE OF CHANNEL

C-33

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NO DEWATERING FACILITIES
WATER WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEACH
THROUGH NATURAL GROUND BOTTOM
ALL SPOIL TO BE CONTAINED ON
DISTRICT RIGHT OF WAY
SPOIL WILL BE HAULED AT A LATER DATE

TYPICAL HYDRAULIC DREDGE SPOIL CONTAINMENT